Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Plan Aquatic Standards		
Standard	Standard Description	Standard Met Because
1	Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) -1 Any activity in RCAs shall be designed to enhance, restore, or maintain the physical and biological characteristics of the RCA by implementing the following requirements. Activities in RCAs, that meet or exceed RMOs, must be designed to maintain existing stream function. Activities in RCAs that are not meeting RMOs shall include a restoration component, commensurate with the scope of the activity affecting the fishery, which trends towards accomplishing desired stream function, as part of the Project. Activities in RCAs shall not result in long-term degradation to aquatic conditions. Limited short-term effects from activities in the RCA may be acceptable when outweighed by the long-term benefits to the RCA and aquatic resources.	The proposed activities that would occur in an RCA are associated vehicle traffic along Little Sheep Creek Road. Design features and road improvements will reduce the amount of sediment reaching the stream by nearly 50%. These improvements will improve the current conditions of the RCA and directly benefit the habitat and species within.
2	Evaluate the risks of aquatic nuisance /exotic species introduction as part of Project analysis (Scale – Project area).	Aquatic nuisance/exotic species could be introduced into the project area from increase vehicle presence. Design features requiring the washing and inspecting of equipment have been established to minimize the potential introduction of nuisance/aquatics species as much as practicable (Table 2-3, item 15). Additionally, well operation will not utilize, pump from, or discharge into streams or water sources in the area. All water will be obtained from a municipal well near Lima and discharged off site.
3	Snow courses, snowpack telemetry sites, and precipitation gauges will be protected from Project activity including maintenance of an adequate buffer to maintain reliability (Scale – Project Area).	There are no snow courses, snowpack telemetry sites or precipitation gauges near the project area therefore none of these sites will be affected.

4	Watersheds that provide water for public water supplies (i.e., where waters are classified by the State of Montana as A-Closed or A-1) shall be managed to meet State water quality Standards established for protection of drinking water quality and be consistent with applicable source water protection plans.	Not applicable; there are no such watersheds associated with this project.
5	New activities within known sensitive amphibian breeding sites and natal areas during breeding and juvenile rearing periods will not cause a threat to population viability or a trend toward federal listing (Scale - Breeding sites and natal areas identified at the Project level).	The effects to sensitive amphibian habitat were analyzed as part of the Biological Evaluation for this project. It was determined that the project may impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability.
6	New management activities in Restoration Key Watersheds will be consistent with recovery of desired aquatic systems.	The Project does not occur in any Restoration Key Watersheds.
7	Guidance defined in 16.2 – Section 1 (Permit Administration) of Beaverhead-Deerlodge Supplement No. 2209.13-98-1 to the Grazing Permit Administration Handbook Title 2209.13 will become mandatory rather than discretionary in Fish Key Watersheds when grazing contributes to degraded Westslope Cutthroat or Bull Trout stream conditions, and there is noncompliance with livestock grazing Standards; or other aspects of livestock grazing permits terms and conditions.	The Project does not propose or alter grazing permits or AMPs.
8	New Projects will have a beneficial effect or no measurable negative effect on Westslope Cutthroat or Bull Trout in Fish Key Watersheds. Short-term negative effects are acceptable if outweighed by long-term benefits.	The Project does not propose activities in Fish Key Watersheds.
9	Restoration Projects should correct existing problems, not mitigate effects created by proposed activities (WR 3).	This is not considered a restoration project.
10	If the only suitable location for incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots and other centers for incident activities are within the RCA, an exemption may be granted following a review and recommendation by a resource advisor. The line officer will	The Project does not propose fire incident management activities.

	prescribe the location, use conditions, and rehabilitation requirements with avoidance of adverse effects to native fish and sensitive aquatic species as a primary goal.	
11	Monitor water quality and aquatic resources in fish key watersheds where chemical retardant, foam, or additives are delivered to surface waters. Monitoring should take place as soon as conditions allow for safe access.211	The Project does not occur in a fish key watershed.
12	Require instream flows and habitat conditions for hydroelectric and other surface water development proposals to maintain or restore riparian resources, favorable channel conditions, fish passage, reproduction, and growth. Coordination will occur with the USFWS, other federal, state, and local agencies. (LH 1). During re-licensing of hydroelectric Projects, provide written and timely license conditions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), that require fish passage and flows and habitat conditions that maintain/restore riparian resources and channel integrity. Coordinate re-licensing Projects with the appropriate state agencies.	The Project does not propose any activities involving new or existing hydroelectric facilities.
13	Locate new hydroelectric ancillary facilities for existing permits, outside RCAs. For existing ancillary facilities inside the RCA essential to proper management, provide recommendations to FERC to assure the facilities would not prevent attainment of the desired stream function and adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species are avoided. Where these objectives cannot be met, provide recommendations to FERC that such ancillary facilities should be relocated. Locate, operate, and maintain hydroelectric facilities that must be located in RCAs to avoid effects that would retard or prevent attainment of the desired stream	The Project does not propose any activities involving new or existing hydroelectric facilities.

	function and avoid adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species (LH 2).	
14	Grazing practices that prevent attainment of desired stream function or are likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species, or adversely impact sensitive species, are modified to attain desired stream function or population objectives (GM 1).	The Project does not make decisions about grazing practices.
15	Locate new livestock handling and/or management facilities outside of RCAs. For existing livestock handling facilities inside RCAs, assure facilities do not prevent attainment of desired stream function. Relocate or close facilities where these objectives cannot be met (GM 2).	The Project does not propose livestock handling or management facilities.
16	Limit livestock trailing, bedding, watering, salting, loading, and other handling efforts to those areas and times that would not retard or prevent attainment of desired stream function or adversely affect native fish and sensitive aquatic species (GM 3).	The Project does not propose changes to livestock management.
17	If a notice of intent indicates a mineral operation would be located in an RCA, the effects of the activity on native fish and sensitive aquatic species is considered in the determination of significant surface disturbance pursuant to 36 CFR 228.4. For operations in an RCA, operators take all practicable measures to maintain, protect, and rehabilitate fish and wildlife habitat, which may be affected by the operations. Bonding requires the cost of stabilizing, rehabilitating, and reclaiming the area of operation will be covered (MM 1).	The drilling operations proposed in this project will not occur within an RCA. Activities with potential impacts to RCAs are associated with traffic traveling to and from the well pad. Design features have been established to maintain and protect water quality from sedimentation being generated from the road surface.
18	Where no alternative to placing facilities in RCAs exists, facilities are located and constructed in ways that avoid impacts to RCAs and streams and adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species. Where no alternative to road construction exists, roads are kept to the minimum necessary for the approved mineral activity. Roads no longer required for	This project does not propose placing facilities in RCAs.

	mineral or land management activities are closed, revegetated, or obliterated (MM 2).	
19	Solid and sanitary waste facilities in RCAs are prohibited. If no alternative to locating mine waste (waste rock, spent ore, tailings) facilities in RCAs exists, releases can be prevented, and stability can be ensured, then (MM 3): Analyze the waste material using the best conventional sampling methods and analytic techniques to determine its chemical and physical stability characteristics. Locate and design the waste facilities using the best conventional techniques to ensure mass stability and prevent the release of acid or toxic materials. If the best conventional	The project does not propose solid or sanitary waste facilities in RCAs
20	Sand and gravel mining and extraction within RCAs are prohibited (MM 5).	The Project does not propose sand and gravel mining and extraction.
21	Provide and maintain fish passage at new, replacement, and reconstructed road crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams, unless barriers are determined beneficial for native fish and/or sensitive aquatic species conservation (RF 5).	The Project does not proposed construction of new, or modification of existing, stream crossings.
22	Complete watershed analysis prior to constructing roads or landings in RCAs within fish or restoration key watersheds (RF 2a).	The Project does not propose new roads or landings in either RCAs or Key Watersheds.
23	Where adjustments of recreation use impacts on desired stream function are not successful, terminate activity or occupancy (RM 1).	The Project does not propose adjustments to recreation use.
24	Chemical pesticides and toxicants will be applied in a manner consistent with desired stream function and avoids adverse biological effects (RA 3).	A design feature in the Project specifies adherence to the Noxious Weed Control Program Record of Decision (2002) for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Application would be consistent with this Standard.

25	Project-related storage of fuels and toxicants within RCAs is prohibited. Refueling within RCAs is prohibited except for emergency situations, in which case refueling sites must have an approved spill containment plan (RA 4).	The Project does not propose refueling or storage of fuels and toxicants in RCAs.
26	Fuelwood cutting and salvage in RCAs will not prevent or retard attainment of desired stream function (TM 1a).	The Project does not propose fuelwood cutting and salvage.
27	Vegetation and/or fuel management prescriptions in RCAs will be for the purpose of restoring, enhancing, or protecting the physical and biological characteristics of the RCA including Riparian Management Objectives. Vegetation and/or fuel treatments, for the purpose of protecting urban interface, private property and other investment, and public safety in RCAs shall be designed so as not to prevent the attainment of desired stream function (TM 1).	The Project does not propose vegetation management or fuel management.
28	Complete the evaluation of on-going activities in Fish Key Watersheds. Activities or conditions inconsistent with goals and objectives will be identified within 3 years and timeframes for implementation of mitigation will be identified.	The Project does not propose actions in Fish Key Watersheds.